



CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE

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April 21, 2005

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New road connections being made in University Place's Town Center

East Road (74th Ave. W.) and Morrison Road construction projects to begin May 2

University Place residents may find traffic moving even more smoothly along Bridgeport Way between 35th and 40th Streets this fall as University Place continues to fill out its transportation grid in the Town Center area. "East Road," technically 74th Avenue West, will be extended from its current terminus behind City Hall to 40th Street West, connecting just behind the Albertson's grocery store. A new roundabout will be added on the 40th Street end to help control vehicle speeds. The road will be designed for a 25 mph speed limit and will feature a curvilinear alignment as a traffic calming measure.

The road will consist of two 12-foot lanes and a 6-foot wide sidewalk on the east side with a 10-foot wide sidewalk on the west side. The road will provide an important alternate route for police and firefighters to reach the south end of the city if Bridgeport Way West is blocked by an accident or for some other reason. The new road may also help reduce response times to emergency calls throughout the city, police and fire officials said.

The road will rise from City Hall to meet the elevation of Albertson's parking lot, offering the property owners a chance to expand their commercial use of that land. An added benefit is that the road will open up a new window on Homestead Park, the patch of forested land between City Hall and Albertsons that is used for several summer events including the annual Treasures in the Park, which happens on June 4 this year.

Another part of the project will involve relocating two stormwater retention ponds currently located on either side of the Public Safety Building and consolidating them on a vacant property next to the Adriana Hess Wetland Park on Morrison Road. A 24-inch pipe will be installed along 72nd Avenue West and Morrison Road to carry water to the new storm drainage detention facility at the corner of Morrison Road and 30th Street Court West. The project was designed in coordination with the Tahoma Audubon Society and the U.P. Parks and Recreation Commission to ensure it will compliment and enhance the park facility.

Further, at the request of the police and fire departments, the contractor will connect two dead-end segments of Morrison Road, making it possible to drive from 27th to 35th streets. The new road will reduce response times to emergencies in the north end of the city. The road will also be an important backup route for emergency responders in case Bridgeport Way West is clogged by a traffic accident or some other incident.

DLB Earthwork Co. was awarded the \$2 million contract on April 4. Work is scheduled to start on May 2 and is scheduled to end in five months.

Please contact Assistant City Engineer Jack Ecklund at 460-5411 if you have any questions about the project.

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